

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     BERLIN 06795 280929Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SAI-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 EB-07

AID-05 OES-06 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /113 W  
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R 280800Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6795

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE,SA, TC, IS, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. ON SEPTEMBER 26 I PAID A FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR MOSTAFA MOHAMED TAWFIK, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR. TAWFIK HAS BEEN IN THE GDR FOR ABOUT 14 MONTHS. HE TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN AN OFFICER IN THE EGYPTIAN ARMY FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

2. LEBANON - I ASKED HIM FOR HIS VIEWS ON LEBANNON. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY MONTHS HE THOUGHT A SETTLEMENT AND RECONCILIATION WAS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION TO MENTIONING THE MEETINGS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT, SYRIA, LEBANON AND THE PLA, TAWFIK SAID THAT ELIAS SARKIS HAD SHOWN HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACT FOR A UNITED LEBANON, AND CONSTITUTIONALLY, IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, WHICH WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE POSSIBILITY OF A SETTLEMENT. HE INFORMED ME THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF EGYPT HAD PLANNED TO GO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND VISIT THE NETHERLANDS ENROUTE TO NEW YORK. HE HAD EXPECTED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02     BERLIN 06795 280929Z

SEE HIM IN EUROPE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD INFORMED HIM

JUST IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT HE WOULD POSTPONE HIS TRIP TO THE UNGA AS HE THOUGHT THE NEXT FEW DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING LEBANON WERE CRITICAL AND THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A CEASE-FIRE SETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN OCTOBER.

3. SITUATION IN EGYPT - SPEAKING TO THE SITUATION IN EGYPT HE SAID THAT ECONOMICALLY IT WAS VERY WEAK. ITS RESOURCES HAD BEEN USED IN MAINTAINING AN ARMY OF ONE MILLION WHICH HAD FOUGHT FOUR YEARS AND PURCHASING ARMS, ALL BEING UNPRODUCTIVE. IT COULD NOT USE THE POTENTIAL OF THE ASWAN DAM BECAUSE IT DID NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO COMPLETE IT, TO BUILD THE CANALS NECESSARY FOR IRRIGATION AND THE VILLAGES INTO WHICH FARMERS COULD MOVE. HE SAID SAUDI ARABIA AND THE EMIRATES HAD BEEN HELPFUL, BUT THEIR RESOURCES WERE IN OIL AND MONEY AND NOT IN THEIR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT. THEY MUST SPEND THEIR MONEY ON THEIR OWN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING ONE HUNDRED YEARS BEHIND EGYPT. AS AN EXAMPLE EGYPT WAS FURNISHING THEM A GREAT MAJORITY OF THEIR DOCTORS, ENGINEERS AND SKILLED PERSONNEL. HE SAID THAT EGYPT WAS SUFFERING FROM THE HIGH PRICE OF OIL AS WAS THE WEST AND THE HIGH PRICE OF PRODUCTS WHICH IT MUST PURCHASE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF OIL PRICES.

4. ISRAEL - HE SPOKE WITHOUT ANY BITTERNESS OR ANTAGONISM OF ISRAEL BUT SAID IT WAS, IN THE VIEW OF THE ARAB STATES, LOSING A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS A RECOGNIZED STATE BY ARAB COUNTRIES AND TO DEVOTE ITS RESOURCES TO ITS OWN ECONOMY. HE NOTED THAT PRACTICALLY ALL THE WESTERN STATES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE US, NOW ACCEDE TO THE VIEW OF WHICH HE HAD SPOKEN. EGYPT WOULD NEVER ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION THAT DID NOT RESTORE TO IT ITS LAND. THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH ISRAEL COULD HOLD EGYPTIAN LAND WOULD BE BY CONQUERING ALL OF EGYPT FROM ALEXANDRIA TO THE ASWAN DAM WHICH, AS AN ARMY OFFICER, HE KNEW WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

5. IN CLOSING HE SPOKE IN A VERY FRIENDLY WAY TO THE BETTERMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND EGYPT. HE  
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PAGE 03     BERLIN 06795 280929Z

HOPED THE US WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE FOR THE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. COOPER

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